



# The Seattle City Attorney's *Liaison Links*

Quarterly Connection to the People and  
Programs of your *Precinct Liaison*  
Offices

**South - North - East - West**

*Winter 2003*

Please visit the Precinct Liaison web site:  
[www.cityofseattle.net/law/precinct\\_liaisons](http://www.cityofseattle.net/law/precinct_liaisons)

## Also in this issue:

- \* Welcome to Captain Jim Pryor
- \* Precinct Liaison's Toolbox
- \* \$500,00 settlement in Colman Park tree case
- \* Nuisance property education workshops: March 29, May 10
- \* CPT overview training

## COMMUNITY FOCUS: CHANGES ON CHERRY STREET

*Ed McKenna*

Residents of the 25<sup>th</sup> & Cherry Street neighborhood are seeing early results of their hard work in combating tough livability problems, including drug dealing, prostitution and other criminal activities. In spite of recent negative press coverage, which only exacerbate these issues, community members are determined to continue cooperating with law enforcement and problem-solving partners.

Thriving local businesses are important components of a livable community. Area residents depend on small businesses that in turn depend on community patronage. As CPT officer Tim Greeley explains: "The pioneering business owners make the investment in the community and take the risk. It's up to the community to sustain these businesses for everyone's benefit."

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Tana Market, on Cherry street, is one such pioneering business. Following a take-over from previous owners, the Tana Market is sporting a facelift: new lighting, new products and, most noticeably, removal of security bars from the windows. Although this last item may seem insignificant, the psychological impact upon the community is just the opposite. For the first time in years, the market conveys the impression that it is a safe place to shop. According to area resident Toni Brooks, "It now looks like a neighborhood store."

Another business invested in improving the area's image is the La Louisiana restaurant. An old vacant building recently gave way to renovation, and now a beautiful interior welcomes hungry patrons who regularly wait in line for a table in this popular eatery.

Removing a problem business can also improve a neighborhood. The former 3B's Barbecue, subject of many community complaints, was recently evicted from its site on Cherry street. When concerns

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were communicated to the property owner, he agreed to the oust the problem business. "The closing of the 3B's has had the most significant impact upon this community," said Officer Greeley. And according to one area resident, "That place was an eyesore and a disruption to the community. The closing of the business has had a positive impact upon other neighborhood businesses and the community." Because of the changes taking place, several people have expressed a desire to lease the location for another neighborhood business.

Unfortunately, despite encouragement from block watch groups to patronize local businesses, some community members remain fearful. While overcoming the area's negative legacy is challenging, the Cherry Street Association, block watch groups, businesses and local government organizations hold monthly meetings to discuss problems and brainstorm solutions. Individual neighborhood block watch

*Continued on page 2*

## **CHERRY STREET**

*Continued from page 1*

meetings are held with the results shared via e-mail, weekly sidewalk clean-ups are organized, and holiday street lighting was recently coordinated for the first time.

Problem solving partners at the City also do their part: the Neighborhood Action Team Seattle arranged for a local business to donate space for a satellite police office, City Weed and Seed funds were expended to subsidize extra police presence in the area, Seattle Public Utilities is studying additional lighting options in the area, and SPD is assisting private businesses by enforcing criminal trespass agreements. Finally, a study for additional development plans is being funded by low-income housing development funds available through the City.

While it's easy to let bad news distract and discourage, maintaining the improvement momentum is vital. Here is how you can get involved: become active in your Block Watch program, organize community walks, report graffiti, crime, and other violations to the appropriate authority, and speak with your community police team officer or precinct liaison attorney about community problems. Finally, patronize local businesses. Remember, they also invest in the community through jobs, taxes and other support.

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## **LIAISON LINKS WELCOMES CAPTAIN JIM PRYOR**

*Phil Brenneman*

In March 2003, Captain Jim Pryor assumes command of Seattle Police Department's new Southwest Precinct, with geographical responsibility for the part of Seattle that lies West of I-5 and South of Spokane Street. With more than 28,000 square feet, the new precinct will be twice the size of the South Precinct and home to approximately 100 officers and civilian employees.

Captain Pryor is completing his thirtieth year of service with the Seattle Police Department, and most recently served as Captain of the Narcotics Section. In this capacity he managed and provided oversight to the section's proactive squads, general investigations unit, abatement/forfeiture unit, precinct support team, task force detectives and the technical support unit. Captain Pryor has served in a variety of assignments in Patrol, Investigations and Administration. He also participated in a number of special projects, including the Regional Staff Group on Specialized Police Services, Disaster Preparedness Taskforce, Regional Task Force on Municipal/District Court Consolidation, and the Heroin Initiative Task Force. Other special assignments include serving as the Emergency Command Center Commander for Seattle's Asian Pacific

Economic Conference and as the Multi-Agency Command Center Commander for the World Trade Organization conference in 1999.

Captain Pryor holds an Associate of Arts degree, an Associate of Applied Science degree in Administration of Justice, and is currently pursuing a degree in management. He is a graduate of the City of Seattle's Advanced Management Program and has received Career Certification at the Executive Level from the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission. He is also a member of and an Accreditation Assessor for the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs, and recently completed the Drug Unit Commanders Academy at the DEA Training Center.

Captain Pryor takes command of an area he knows well. He grew up in West Seattle, where he attended elementary, middle school and West Seattle High School. He served in the Naval Air Reserve for 6 years, stationed first at NAS Sandpoint and then at NAS Whidbey Island. We wish him well in his command of Seattle's newest precinct.

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## **VICE OFFICERS, LIAISON ATTORNEY JOIN FORCES TO COMBAT PROSTITUTION**

*Ed McKenna*

When officers from SPD's vice

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*Continued on page 3*

## **PROSTITUTION**

*Continued from page 2*

unit became aware of what appeared to be an unusual prostitution operation in the midst of a north end residential neighborhood, they contacted the precinct liaison attorney. Officers expressed concerns about a “tantric” healing studio where ailments could ostensibly be relieved through tantric massage. However, due to the carefully crafted language of the business’ advertising and the protocol required of patrons, normal police/prostitution enforcement activities had been unsuccessful.

Based upon information provided by the vice officers, the liaison attorney determined the business was likely violating the city’s body studio ordinance which “prohibits the advertisement or representation that an establishment accepts a fee in exchange for allowing the touching of an unclothed person or allowing an unclothed person to be so touched.”

The vice officers made an appointment at the business in question, which resulted in the arrest of two employees. Both were subsequently charged with criminal violations of the body studio ordinance and appeared before the Seattle Municipal Court for prosecution. Facing a solid case, both suspects ultimately entered into dispositions favorable to the city, and following their arrests the business closed.

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This case serves as an excellent example of how pairing police officers with liaison attorneys results in effective community problem solving.

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## **DECISION EXPECTED THIS SPRING ON PIONEER SQUARE AIA**

*Phil Brenneman*

The Washington State Liquor Control Board’s decision on the City of Seattle’s request for recognition of the Pioneer Square Alcohol Impact Area (AIA) is expected later this spring. As a follow-up to a public hearing before the WSLCB in late November, the board held an open work session on February 6, 2003, during which board director of licensing, Lorraine Lee, walked board members through the background, issues and options related to Seattle’s request. The City has requested the WSLCB to impose area-wide restrictions on off-premises sales of alcohol, including elimination of single can sales and sales of alcohol before 9 am to reduce the impacts of chronic public inebriation in the area.

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## **COMMUNITY PROBLEM AVERTED WHEN LIAISON “TOOLBOX” OPENED**

*Ed McKenna*

Many problem-solving tools are available in the precinct liaison attorney’s “toolbox.” Sometimes a phone call or letter by the liaison will be enough to solve a problem. Sometimes concerns

are resolved through a meeting or by drafting a Good Neighbor Agreement. When necessary, the liaison attorney can file an appropriate criminal charge to deal with a problem business or property owner.

Recently when a smoke shop applied for a specialty beer and wine license from the Washington State Liquor Board, the application combined with the nature of the business alerted the City that further investigation was necessary. This revealed that the smoke shop appeared to be primarily engaged in the sale of illegal drug paraphernalia, that the business owner did not have a current city business license, and the business was also in arrears on its tax obligations.

Concerned that this business owner appeared to have difficulty following the law, an undercover officer made a purchase from the establishment and an incident report was generated. At the same time, an undercover tobacco sting resulted in the sale of cigarettes to a minor from the same establishment. Based upon these reports, the liaison attorney filed criminal charges of Engaging in Business Without a Business License against the the business corporation, its president and vice-president. The city also filed an objection with the liquor board to the issuance of a liquor license to the business.

Following these actions the business paid its overdue taxes

*Continued on page 4*

## TOOLBOX

*Continued from page 3*

and its business license was renewed. However, based upon the city's objection, the liquor board denied the liquor license application.

In the criminal case, the corporation, its president and vice-president all entered into criminal dispositions favorable to the city, which included a stiff fine, an agreement to not violate the law again, and most importantly, to cease selling drug paraphernalia from the store.

In the future, there will probably be other establishments raising public safety issues in your community. Should you become aware of such concerns, please don't hesitate bring them to the attention of your community police team officer or precinct liaison attorney. There are still plenty of problem solving tools available in the "toolbox."

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### JUDGE TO PAY \$500,000 TO SETTLE COLMAN PARK TREE CUTTING CASE

*Phil Brenneman*

Judge Jerome J. Farris, a Senior Judge of the United States Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, will pay the City of Seattle \$500,000 in settlement of claims relating to the illegal cutting of approximately 120 trees in Colman Park. The trees were cut in the park in an area adjacent to the Farris property

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by a gardener working for Judge Farris. Seattle Parks Department will use the settlement proceeds to restore and improve Colman Park. Illegal tree cutting on city property should be reported to Mark Mead, Senior Urban Forester at (206) 684-4113.

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### NUISANCE PROPERTY TRAINING

*Tuere Sala*

Nuisance properties are one of the most pressing concerns of South Precinct community members. A nuisance property may arise from a number of different situations: drugs, crime, noise, trash, loitering, or a combination thereof. Because many southend community members have expressed their concerns about such properties including the role of the community in solving problems that arise out of nuisance properties, two nuisance property training workshops will be held in the next few months. The first workshop will take place on **March 29, 2003** from **10 am to 1 pm** at the Seattle Public Library, Delridge Branch, 5423 Delridge Way. The second workshop is scheduled for **May 10, 2003** from 9 am to 12 pm at Park Place, 6900 37th Ave. S.

The training will provide a forum to exchange ideas and solutions to address nuisance problems, and community members can learn what tools are available to create change and how to promote and maintain safe neighborhoods.

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There will also be an opportunity to discuss concerns within area neighborhoods.

Please plan to attend the workshop and help create effective solutions to neighborhood nuisance concerns.

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### CPT OVERVIEW TRAINING

*Shelley Hickey*

The Seattle Police Department organized a one-day overview training session for community police team officers from all four precincts February 19 at the new City Justice Center. Approximately 40 officers and sergeants attended. Liaison attorneys provided training for part of the agenda.

Ed McKenna, liaison attorney for the North and East precincts, provided an overview and update on trespass and drug traffic loitering. Tuere Sala, liaison attorney for the South Precinct, provided training on topics of abandoned vehicles and drug paraphernalia. And Shelley Hickey, liaison attorney for the West Precinct, provided an overview of nuisance and drug nuisance abatements, and the use of nuisance abatements and Good Neighbor agreements. The officers received informational materials on each topic.

With the combined civil and criminal experience of the liaison attorneys, both sides of the law were covered, including

*Continued on page 5*

## **CPT TRAINING**

*Continued from page 4*

discussion of case preparation for each topic.

In addition to training from the liaison attorneys, presentations were made by representatives from the Liquor Control Board, the Department of Corrections, the Seattle Housing Authority, Seattle Public Utilities, and the Department of Construction and Land Use. Officers also received information related to facilitating community meetings and CPTED, or crime prevention through environmental design.

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## **LONG STANDING SOUTHEND NUISANCE RESOLVED**

*Tuere Sala*

The property owned by Victor Herman located at 8157 32nd Avenue S.W. has long been the source of many neighborhood concerns regarding junk storage, improper vehicle storage and other illegal activity. In 2001, after obtaining a judgment for land-use violations against the owner, the City seized several vehicles owned by Mr. Herman from on and near the property. The seizure of the vehicles had two results: first, it was a means for the City to collect on its judgment, and second, seizure of the vehicles brought some relief to the community members concerned about the improper storage of those vehicles. The City was subsequently prevented from selling the vehicles

when Mr. Herman filed for bankruptcy shortly after the seizure. Recently, after the bankruptcy proceeding was dismissed, an arrangement was made by which he agreed to sell the house and vacate the premises, with the City receiving payment on its judgment through the closing proceeds. Mr. Herman has entered into an agreement to sell his house to a developer. The sale has a closing date of March 28, 2003.

However, it is anticipated that the property will be vacated prior to then. After the closing, the vehicles seized by the City will be returned to Mr. Herman (with the condition that they must be removed from the City of Seattle).

Several people were instrumental in helping the City reach resolution of this long-standing community problem. We commend Barbara Middleton, a Community Service Officer who recruited volunteers to assist Mr. Herman with packing and loading boxes, and the Conservation Corps for pick-up and disposal of trash from the property. We also thank Assistant City Attorney Thom Castagna in the Civil Enforcement section for his work on the settlement agreement reached with Mr. Herman. Community members have communicated their delight with the final result of this long standing problem.

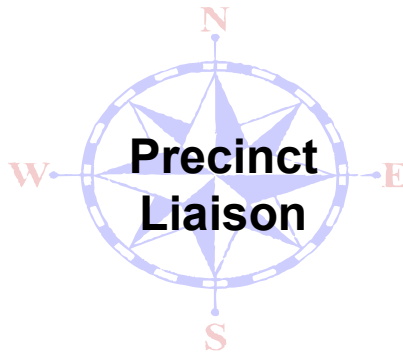
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